

Andrews Students Win Stryker Engineering Challenge

The 9th annual Stryker Engineering Challenge took place March 21-22

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The MCA team (left to right): Joshua Cormier, University of Detroit Mercy; Denise Roorda, Calvin College; Jeremy Barrett and Devin Garcia, Andrews University. (Photo by Gunnar Lovhoiden, MCA team sponsor and professor of engineering)

By: Gunnar Lovhoiden, MCA team sponsor and professor of engineering

The Michigan Colleges Alliance (MCA) team won the 2019 Stryker Engineering Challenge on Friday, March 22. The MCA team consisted of Jeremy Barrett and Devin Garcia from Andrews University, Denise Roorda from Calvin College and Joshua Cormier from University of Detroit Mercy. The MCA team competed against teams from University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Western Michigan University, University of Notre Dame and Purdue University.

The University Recruiting department at Stryker Medical in Kalamazoo held the 9th annual Stryker Engineering Challenge from March 21–22, 2019. Teams of four sophomore engineering students competed against each other for an opportunity to receive a \$1,000 scholarship and an interview for a Stryker internship position for summer 2020. MCA has been invited to send a team to the competition since 2015.

The challenge began around 7 p.m. on Thursday, and all work ended at 1:45 p.m. on Friday. The competition portion of the challenge started at 2:30 p.m. The main part of the challenge was to design a remotely-controlled vehicle from a supplied build kit. This vehicle was used in a 30-minute competition where all teams worked simultaneously to pick up

Lego people, then in an obstacle course race where two to three teams raced at a time to see who could complete the course the fastest. Each team was required to use three different drivers during the race.

In addition to the competition, the teams could collect points on technical challenges before the competition and on homework that was collected around noon on Friday.

The MCA team was second overall after the homework and technical challenges, trailing Michigan State by 13 points. During the pick-up competition, MCA took the lead and was 24 points ahead of Michigan Tech before the obstacle race. Western won the race followed by Michigan Tech and MCA, resulting in MCA winning the challenge overall by a single point over Michigan Tech.

Gunnar Lovhoiden, MCA team sponsor and professor of engineering at Andrews University, supported Andrews students at the competition. He says, "The MCA team worked really well together and maximized their performance by making good design decisions."

Hyun Kwon, chair of the Andrews University Department of Engineering, adds, "I am so proud of our students. They have proven the ability to successfully compete at such a high level and against much larger schools."

To learn more about the Andrews University Department of Engineering, visit andrews.edu/cas/engineering.